Characters

- TOSH KAMIYA, *head of the household, a nisei, age fifty*
- FUMIKO KAMIYA, TOSH'S *nisei wife, forty-nine*
- LAURA, *their daughter, twenty-five*
- SPENCER, *their son, nineteen*
- DEBBIE, *their youngest daughter, thirteen*
- UNCLE AKI, TOSH'S *older brother, fifty-five*
- AUNTIE TOMI, AKI'S *wife, fifty-three*
- NOBU, *their son, twenty-six*
- SUSAN, NOBU'S *white wife, twenty-four*
- TOKU TANIGUCHI, LAURA'S *husband, twenty-six*

Time: The summer of 1959, the year of statehood.

Place: The backyard of the Kamiya home in Manoa Valley.

Scenery: The exterior of a large white house with a screen door. Service porch with steps leads to a cement patio. Decorating the area are a picnic table, two benches, a round table with some chairs, and pots of flowers. One walkway leads offstage right to an unseen nursery area. Another walkway heads off upstage left around the house. The third walkway is downstage left leading to the front of the house.

Act

ACT ONE

(*It is midmorning. There is the chirping of a bird.* TOSH *comes out of the house in a white undershirt and striped boxer shorts. He wears rubber slippers on the porch and walks downstage to the cement patio. He looks up at the sky and surveys the area with the look of a contented man.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Mama! Mama!

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*At porch.)*

Wat happen?

TOSH KAMIYA

Try come.

(FUMIKO *goes to him, concerned. She wears a simple shirt and slacks. Her hair is covered by a scarf.)*

Try look. Da rain wen' away. Going be one nice day for da party.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You call me out jus' for dat? I tought someting was wrong wit' you. No make me scared for nuttin', eh.

TOSH KAMIYA

You sure get enough kau kau for today?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Of course.

TOSH KAMIYA

Shame, you know, if no mo' enough food.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No worry, we can feed one army. Wassamadda you.

TOSH KAMIYA

I like da party be extra special. Not every day we going celebrate statehood. Can you imagine, Hawai'i da fiftieth state. About time, yeah. No mo' second-class citizenship now.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Yeah, but we still so far away from da mainland.

TOSH KAMIYA

We no need worry about dat. Today, no need worry about nuttin'.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well, if you happy Hawai`i is one state, den I happy, too. But I no mo' time talk to you. I gotta cook, clean da house, Laura gotta fix my hair...

TOSH KAMIYA

Territory was not enough. And I neva like commonwealth. Had to be statehood. 'S da bes' way. Some guys neva like believe me, but I know I was right.

DEBBIE

(*From inside the house.)*

Mama!

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Out here!

(DEBBIE *comes out to the porch.)*

DEBBIE

Mama, where my... Daddy, you in your underwear.

(TOSH *looks at himself.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

So?

DEBBIE

Da neighbors get one free show, man.

TOSH KAMIYA

Oh yeah? Go charge dem one dollar.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Da neighbors no can see. Go wake up Spenca.

DEBBIE

Dat sleepy head. You gotta hit him wit' one shovel to wake 'um up.

TOSH KAMIYA

Go, go. Tell your bruddah I said no can sleep late today.

DEBBIE

Okay, but I going bring one baseball bat wit' me.

(DEBBIE *reenters the house.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Mama, someday I like build one house on dis side.

(*Indicates the area over the audience.)*

For Spenca, wen he get married. Wat you tink?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Get plenty room.

TOSH KAMIYA

Might as well make use, eh.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Yeah, you can make one nice house dere.

TOSH KAMIYA

Sure. If Spenca get t'ree, four kids, he need one big house. So ova dere jus' like he living wit' us even though not in da same house.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You get everyting all figured out, eh.

TOSH KAMIYA

I was looking at all dis space we get. I dunno. Maybe haoles might put tennis court or someting, but I tink betta if we build someting for our son.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I hope Spenca appreciate it.

TOSH KAMIYA

Oh yeah. Wen Spenca graduate from University of Hawai`i, he can work full time wit' me, den take ova da business someday. Den his son take ova for him. Jus' like da Dillinghams, eh, on and on. Da Kamiya and Son Corporation. How you like dat?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You sure know how dream big.

TOSH KAMIYA

Why not? Now dat Hawai`i is one state, no telling how good business going be. No kidding. 'S why I told Spenca take business administration at UH˙ Den he can handle da books.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You work too hard; you gotta take it easy, listen to da doctor. Wen you retire, den —

TOSH KAMIYA

Wen I retire, I still going keep track of da business. No can jus' play every day. Eva since I was one small kid, I was working. If I no work, waste time.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I wish Spenca wasn't so lazy.

TOSH KAMIYA

Nemmine. Da important ting now is dat he study hard at school, get his education. Not like me. How long I hadda go night school jus' to get my high school diploma.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No can help; you had to quit school wen you was young to help your folks pick coffee.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, 's why I no like Spenca suffa for nuttin'. So long as he get good grades, I no care about da odda stuff. He going work wit' his head, not his hands.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You gotta be more strict wit' him, like your faddah was wit' you.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, I strict enough. I not going make da same mistake like my faddah. He was one tough old man, too tough. Aki neva can stand him wen he was young. So wat my bruddah did? Run off to Honolulu. No, I not going chase Spenca away from da business. I going make 'um easy for him. Dat way he can make one good life for himself wit' da business and build 'um some more afta I ma-ke.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Aeh, no talk about dying yet. Afta you retire, I going take you to Japan, mainland, Europe. You undastand wat I saying?

TOSH KAMIYA

Okay, okay.

(SPENCER *comes out in a T-shirt and swimming shorts. His hair is disheveled.)*

SPENCER

Mama, where my breakfast?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You nebosuke, tell your sista cook for you.

SPENCER

You like she poison me or wat?

DEBBIE

(*Behind him.)*

Yeah, no give me ideas.

(*She hands* TOSH *a pair of pants. She is also carrying a small camera.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat dis for?

DEBBIE

Daddy, you look betta wit' your pants on. Your legs too white. Look like shark bait.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Yeah, Daddy, you getting old. Now you gotta listen to your daughter.

TOSH KAMIYA

(*Putting on pants.)*

Ya-re, ya-re.

(FUMIKO *and* SPENCER *exit into the house.)*

DEBBIE

Daddy.

(*She snaps a picture of* TOSH *still with his pants down.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Aeh, wat you doing?

DEBBIE

Blackmail!

(*Elvis the dog barks offstage right.)*

Hi, Elvis!

TOSH KAMIYA

Tell him shut up.

(*She exits. The barking soon stops.* FUMIKO *comes out.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Daddy, da mush going be ready quick so come in already.

TOSH KAMIYA

Same old ting every morning. Quaka Oats. Me not one horse, you know.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Mush is good for you.

TOSH KAMIYA

How 'bout Portogee sausage and eggs sunnyside up?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Too strong. You not one kid anymore.

(*She reenters the house as* DEBBIE *returns.)*

DEBBIE

Elvis' chain was tangled up. Daddy, you know wat I was tinking?

(TOSH *doesn't answer. He is deep in thought, looking out where* SPENCER'S *future house is going to be.)*

Daddy.

TOSH KAMIYA

Huh?

DEBBIE

Wat you tinking?

TOSH KAMIYA

Oh, I was tinking I get one good business, good wife, good children. Wat more I like?

DEBBIE

Good Portogee sausage and eggs.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, but your muddah is strict.

DEBBIE

She worry about you; she not trying to be mean.

TOSH KAMIYA

I know. 'S why I said I get one good wife.

DEBBIE

You tink me one good daughter?

TOSH KAMIYA

Well, you get good grades in school. You listen to Mama, you help around da house. Wat else?

DEBBIE

'S about it. But you neva tell da bad side. I spend too much on records and clothes. I go see too many movies, and next week I gotta start wearing braces on my teeth. 'S too expensive, so I betta not put da braces on. Instead, I like save da money for college.

TOSH KAMIYA

No worry. I get enough money for college and your teeth.

DEBBIE

Daddy, you work too hard for your money. I can go wit'out da braces.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat Mama going say?

DEBBIE

You know Mama, she going say I need da braces, but she always worry about small tings like dat.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, you get da braces so you get nice, straight teeth, not like mine. See how funny? 'S because my muddah and faddah was too poor to fix my teeth for me. But you, you going get teeth like one princess.

DEBBIE

Yeah but princesses no need braces; dey born wit' good teeth. No fair, man.

(SPENCER *comes out to the porch.)*

SPENCER

Mama said come in before da mush get cold.

TOSH KAMIYA

Okay, okay. You finish already?

SPENCER

Yup.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat you wen' eat?

SPENCER

Same old ting. Portogee sausage and eggs.

(TOSH *shakes his head as he exits into the house. The dog barks again.)*

SPENCER

Shut up, Elvis!

(*The dog doesn't stop.)*

Dammit!

(SPENCER *runs off in his bare feet.* FUMIKO *comes out.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Spenca, hurry up, eh.

SPENCER

(*Offstage.)*

Damn dog crazy.

DEBBIE

Mama, I tink Elvis like find his girlfriend.

(SPENCER *returns.)*

SPENCER

I like take off his chain and let 'um run loose.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No, bumbai he run in odda people's yards.

DEBBIE

You no feel sorry for him, all tied up?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Only one dog, nemmine. Spenca, I told you go get da chairs and bring 'um outside. Hurry up.

SPENCER

Nobody here yet, for wat rush?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Nonkena, no you. How you going do anyting? Be more like Daddy.

SPENCER

Daddy is Daddy, me is me.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat you mean by dat?

SPENCER

No two rivers run da same way. Da Mississippi go dis way, da Nile dat way.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You like I show you which way to go?

SPENCER

I going, I going.

(SPENCER *goes into the house.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Dis for you. Peel da cucumbers please.

(*She hands a bowl of cucumbers with a peeler to* DEBBIE.)

DEBBIE

(*Peeling at picnic table.)*

How many people coming to da party?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

About forty. Da boys from work, business friends. Das why we wen' make all da laulau last night.

DEBBIE

You ain't kidding, man. My fingers still tired. But why we making one party for statehood?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You know your daddy. He like celebrate for da new state.

DEBBIE

He get funny kine ideas sometimes.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You be quiet, no say nuttin' to Daddy.

(SPENCER *comes out carrying three beach-type chairs in both hands. He places them around the patio.)*

SPENCER

One chair was rip, so I neva bring 'um out.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I told you fix da chair long time ago.

SPENCER

I was busy.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Busy, busy, always busy. Here, make yourself useful. Clean da tables and benches.

(*She gives him a rag, then exits into the house.)*

DEBBIE

You lazy bone.

SPENCER

Quiet, shrimp, before I clean you wit' dis rag.

(*The dog barks again.)*

Dat did it.

(*He exits.* DEBBIE *watches and reacts to what she has seen. He returns.)*

DEBBIE

Now you going get it. Why you let Elvis loose for?

SPENCER

If he like go, let 'um go. Not natural keep him tied up like dat.

(*He cleans the tables.)*

DEBBIE

I hope he don't make da Chandlers' dog pregnant.

SPENCER

Wat you know about pregnant?

DEBBIE

Enough.

SPENCER

No make me laugh.

DEBBIE

You know da Higashi lady, da one Mama talks to at da store sometimes?

SPENCER

Yeah.

DEBBIE

Well, her daughter got pregnant.

SPENCER

Who told you dat?

DEBBIE

I heard Mama and Daddy talking. Anyway, da girl neva say nuttin' to her muddah for long time.

SPENCER

Dat was stupid.

DEBBIE

I know. Wen her faddah found out, he wanted to kick her out of da house.

SPENCER

'S wat she get, keep her mout' shut so long. She should've told her muddah right way. Dumb.

DEBBIE

Well... you told Mama yet?

SPENCER

Tell her wat?

DEBBIE

You know. About you.

SPENCER

Me? I not pregnant.

DEBBIE

I mean, dat you like go to mainland school.

SPENCER

(*Pauses.)*

Wat happen to da Higashi girl?

DEBBIE

She getting married and dey moving in wit' her folks.

SPENCER

Her folks?

DEBBIE

Yeah, da boy's faddah wen' kick him out of his house first.

SPENCER

All's well dat ends well in da land of aloha.

DEBBIE

Why you have to go to mainland school for?

SPENCER

You no feel isolated living on one small island in da middle of da ocean?

DEBBIE

No.

SPENCER

Every morning I wake up, I feel like da whole world running way ahead of me and I no can catch up. I get up ten A˙M˙, already one P˙M˙ in L˙A˙ and four o'clock in New York. Everyting happening in da world and I still sleeping. You know wat I mean?

DEBBIE

No.

SPENCER

You jus' one girl, you no can undastand.

DEBBIE

Well, get up seven A˙M˙, den only ten o'clock in L˙A˙ and one P˙M˙ in New York. Not so bad den.

SPENCER

I get itchy feet; I gotta go.

DEBBIE

Maybe you jus' get athlete's foot.

(FUMIKO *is out with a mop.)*

SPENCER

Mama, I like talk to you.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat?

SPENCER

Try come.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wassamadda now.

SPENCER

No get excited now, but I —

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat? Wat you did? You bang da car again?

SPENCER

No, nuttin' like dat. I wen' apply to go to USC˙

FUMIKO KAMIYA

USC? Mainland?

SPENCER

Yeah, and dey accepted me.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat about UH?

SPENCER

I can transfer my credits from dere.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

But why you have to go to business school ova dere?

SPENCER

Not for business, Mama. I like study someting else.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You have to study business, so you can take ova for Daddy someday.

SPENCER

'S da whole point, Mama. I no like take ova da business.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Why?

SPENCER

Da business not mine.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Of course 's yours. Daddy said he going —

SPENCER

I know wat Daddy said. I know wat he always say, but 's his business, going always be his business. Wen he die, going still be his business. Da rest of my life he going be telling me wat to do and how to do it. I cannot be a building contractor.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

How hard you tink Daddy working so you can go school. He depending on you.

SPENCER

I gotta be my own boss.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Baka. I no like hear da kine stupid talk. No hurt Daddy for nuttin'.

SPENCER

I know. 'S why I tought maybe you can tell him.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No. Daddy stay plan everyting out and —

SPENCER

But Mama...

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wait little while and tink some more. Den you can see wat I mean. No spoil today for Daddy.

(LAURA *enters from downstage left. She's wearing a shirt and slacks. Her head is covered with a scarf, and she's carrying a muumuu in a plastic hanger bag.)*

LAURA

Hi, everybody.

DEBBIE

Hi, Laura.

LAURA

Mama, you like I make your hair right away?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well, if not too much trouble.

LAURA

No, we go in da house.

DEBBIE

Where Toku?

LAURA

He coming. You know how slow him. Toku! Spenca, how come you neva cut your hair?

SPENCER

Why, what's wrong?

LAURA

You look like one hoodlum. Mama, you going let him stay like dat?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I get enough tell him anyting.

(TOKU *enters carrying a large box. He wears an aloha shirt with gray trousers and rubber slippers.)*

TANIGUCHI

Oh, hi!

(*He playfully tries to dodge* SPENCER.)

LAURA

Watch out, no drop da box.

DEBBIE

Toku, wat happen to your hair?

(TOKU *sports an obviously new haircut that is fairly short and poorly cut. A cowlick sticks out in the back part of his head.)*

LAURA

Nuttin' wrong wit' his hair.

DEBBIE

But he had da nice Waikiki wave in front wit' da long sideburns.

TANIGUCHI

No mo' now.

LAURA

Swept away in da garbage can.

DEBBIE

Da mean barber you had. He wen' crazy, yeah.

LAURA

Looks nice. Cheap, too.

DEBBIE

Who did it, Toku?

TANIGUCHI

Laura.

LAURA

Was real easy. Spenca, come inside. I cut your hair too.

SPENCER

You gotta catch me first.

LAURA

Mama, next time you go cut your hair, I can do 'um for you.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well, I tink I going let 'um grow little bit.

(TOKU, LAURA *and* FUMIKO *enter the house.)*

DEBBIE

Toku sure must love Laura a lot to let her cut his hair like dat.

SPENCER

Toku is too nice guy. Someday he gotta tell Laura who da real driver of da car.

DEBBIE

Laura always let Toku drive. She's a good side-seat driva. Go dis way, Toku, go dat way. No, you going da wrong way.

SPENCER

Debbie, wen you grow up, no be like Laura.

DEBBIE

Why?

SPENCER

You promise?

DEBBIE

Why?

SPENCER

'Cause I like you stay young — and stupid.

DEBBIE

You moe lepo.

SPENCER

If anybody like me, tell 'um I fixing my car.

DEBBIE

Again?

SPENCER

Yeah. I need time to tink. And around here da only time I can tink is wen I fixing my car.

(SPENCER *exits left as* TOKU *reappears.)*

TANIGUCHI

Dey keeping you busy, eh.

DEBBIE

Yeah, I hate da parties at dis house. I gotta do all da dirty work.

TANIGUCHI

Wat you making?

DEBBIE

I peeling da cucumbers for da namasu. All I do is peel dis, peel dat. Mama don't know it, but she preparing me for my future career.

TANIGUCHI

Yeah? Wat dat?

DEBBIE

One burlesque stripper. I so good at peeling dat I decided I going peel off my clothes for a living.

TANIGUCHI

No kidding. Wat you going call yourself?

DEBBIE

I dunno. How 'bout Madame Pele, da Goddess of Volcanic Passion?

TANIGUCHI

Sound interesting. I can come see da show?

DEBBIE

All relatives and in-laws cannot see da show. Only strangers, sad-faced men wit' empty eyes.

TANIGUCHI

Where you going dance?

DEBBIE

Beretania Follies. 'S one clean place?

TANIGUCHI

No ask me. I neva go dere in my life.

DEBBIE

Toku, I heard you telling Spenca once about wat you saw.

TANIGUCHI

Wen?

DEBBIE

We was picking seaweed last year and you was wit' —

TANIGUCHI

You was dat far away and you heard?

DEBBIE

I hear everyting within a one-mile radius.

TANIGUCHI

I gotta watch out for you, you get X-ray ears.

DEBBIE

No worry, Toku, I not going tell Laura.

TANIGUCHI

(*A friendly wink.)*

T'anks, eh.

(LAURA *steps out with a preserves jar and a bowl of carrots, giving the jar to* TOKU *and the bowl to* DEBBIE.)

LAURA

Open dis. Peel da carrots, Debbie. I hope Uncle Aki dem don't come too soon.

DEBBIE

Why?

LAURA

'Cause my hair not ready. I no like Susan see me like dis.

(TOKU *can't open the jar.)*

Toku, no get your clothes dirty out here. I like you look nice wen Nobu and Susan dem come. Debbie, watch him, eh, no let him do someting silly. You know him. Wassamadda, you dat weak?

TANIGUCHI

Really tight.

LAURA

Here, Daddy can open 'um. He getting da poker room ready.

(*She reenters the house.)*

DEBBIE

Da cova was probably rusted inside.

TANIGUCHI

No, was jus' tight.

DEBBIE

You know wat I tink?

TANIGUCHI

No, wat?

DEBBIE

I tink Laura need one baby.

TANIGUCHI

You tink Laura can make one good muddah?

DEBBIE

Well, she like boss people around, jus' like my muddah. If she get one baby, she can boss da baby around.

TANIGUCHI

I dunno. I tink betta if we no get kids, too much trouble.

DEBBIE

Toku, I heard you and Laura talking, and you said you wanted kids. Laura, too.

TANIGUCHI

Wen you heard dat?

DEBBIE

Wen you, Laura, and me went to Kapiolani Drive-in to see *Jailhouse Rock.*

TANIGUCHI

Yeah? Chee, dat was... I tought you was sleeping in da back seat?

DEBBIE

I was. But I still heard.

TANIGUCHI

You and your X-ray ears.

DEBBIE

'S how I learn about life, Toku. Nobody tell me nuttin'. You know, if I get married, I going be jus' like Mama and Laura. I tink I going boss my husband around. And I going hate myself because of dat, but still I not going change.

TANIGUCHI

How old you now?

DEBBIE

Thirteen and a half.

TANIGUCHI

Going on tirty-five.

(TOSH *comes out.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Aeh, Toku, put your head down. Now side to side.

(*Yelling into the house.)*

Laura, I going keep my barber.

(LAURA *emerges with a handful of gobo wrapped in newspaper.)*

LAURA

'S up to you, Daddy. I willing to do it for you.

TOSH KAMIYA

Well, I been going to da same guy for ten years now, no use change, eh. Bumbai he feel bad.

LAURA

Debbie, you so slow, wat you doing?

DEBBIE

I only get two hands, you know.

LAURA

Here, do da gobo too.

DEBBIE

I will neva, eva, be a vegetarian.

TOSH KAMIYA

Toku, you wen' bring money for da poker game?

TANIGUCHI

Yeah, and I going win back wat I lost last time.

LAURA

Daddy, no make Toku lose so much.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat you like I do, cheat for him?

LAURA

If you have to, yes.

(FUMIKO *comes out.)*

TANIGUCHI

Going be diff'rent today. I feel lucky.

LAURA

You always feel lucky and you always come home wit' your pockets empty.

TANIGUCHI

Not every time.

LAURA

We not rich, you know.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Toku, you ate breakfast yet?

TANIGUCHI

Yeah, I cook my own today.

LAURA

He cook his breakfast every morning now, Mama. I get him trained real good.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Shame on you. You neva used to be lazy like dat before.

TANIGUCHI

Nah, 's okay. No trouble.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

For wat you wen' study home economics at UH?

LAURA

No ask me. I was tinking maybe I going back to school and take some courses.

TOSH KAMIYA

Nemmine dat. You gotta raise kids firs'. Yeah, Mama. Den you can send your kids to college.

LAURA

I get enough wit' one big kid here.

TOSH KAMIYA

No blame Toku. Next year is good time to get one baby. 1960 is wat, Mama? Year of da horse? Someting good like dat, yeah?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I tink year of da rat.

LAURA

See! No baby next year.

TOSH KAMIYA

No listen to Mama; she dunno nuttin' about Japanese calendar.

(*He makes a face at* FUMIKO.)

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Next year is year of da rat.

TOSH KAMIYA

You dunno how lie or wat?

(*The phone rings in the house.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

'S for me. Hanapi supposed to call.

(*He enters the house.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Oh, Toku, t'anks for da big Samoan crab. Where you wen' catch 'um?

TANIGUCHI

Inside Kaneohe Marine Base.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

And da Hawaiian crabs, about twenty.

TANIGUCHI

'S nuttin'. Me and my friends wen' catch about sixty crabs. We jus' t'row out da crab nets wit' da aku heads as bait, wait little while, den pull 'um up. You should see da crabs in da nets — sometimes t'ree, four in one

catch.

LAURA

Mama, if I let him, he go fishing and crabbing every day.

TANIGUCHI

Good fun das why. We drive down dis narrow dirt road. Get only enough room for one car, and we gotta twist and turn past bushes and trees. Nobody around but us. Really quiet and peaceful. Now on one side get big fishing ponds and bushes. On da odda side is da bay, and in da distance across da bay, we can see da jets taking off and landing.

TOSH KAMIYA

(*From inside.)*

Mama, try come!

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Now wat?

(*She goes in.)*

DEBBIE

Anybody can go in da marine base?

TANIGUCHI

Yeah. If you folks like go, I can get passes for everybody.

(LAURA *busies herself on the porch.)*

One ting we do, wen we catch crabs full wit' eggs, we always t'row 'um back in da ponds. Gotta give 'um chance to reproduce. You take care of da land, da land take care of you.

DEBBIE

I bet you can live off da land, I mean, all da time.

TANIGUCHI

Yeah. Dat was my life. No need worry about nuttin'. Do wat I like wen I like.

DEBBIE

But den you wen' marry Laura.

TANIGUCHI

Yeah. You know why?

DEBBIE

No, why?

TANIGUCHI

I tell you in five years.

(*Elvis barks offstage right, then the barking moves across to offstage left.)*

LAURA

Aeh, how come Elvis running loose? Go catch him, Toku; everybody else busy.

TANIGUCHI

Okay. Elvis my friend.

(*He exits left.)*

DEBBIE

Why you let Toku go afta Elvis?

LAURA

Why not?

DEBBIE

'S not his dog. Anyway Spenca wen' untie him. Let him chase Elvis.

LAURA

Spenca? Nineteen years old and he still ack like one kid. Daddy baby him too much.... I take da cucumbers and carrots inside. No forget da gobo.

(LAURA *enters the house.)*

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage left.)*

Oi! Oi!

(*He enters with a clucking chicken in a cardboard box with holes.)*

Hi, Debbie, where Mama?

DEBBIE

Hi, Uncle Aki. She in da kitchen.

UNCLE AKI

You like dis chicken?

DEBBIE

Chee, how come you wen' bring one live one?

UNCLE AKI

Here, you take 'um.

DEBBIE

Uh-uh, I ain't no country girl.

(AKI *laughs heartily.)*

Going get one cockfight or wat?

UNCLE AKI

No, we going eat dis chicken.

DEBBIE

We going eat one live chicken?

UNCLE AKI

'S da bes' kine. Fresh. But firs' we gotta

(*He zips his forefinger across his throat.)*

kreee!

DEBBIE

Yuck!

UNCLE AKI

Fumi! Oi, Fumiko!

(FUMIKO *at the door.)*

Chicken, chicken, bring da knife. I going be waiting by da tree stump.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Okay.

(*She withdraws as* AKI *exits right.* NOBU, *toting a baby bag, enters with* SUSAN, *who's carrying an infant in a bundle.)*

NOBU

Aeh, Debbie, how's my favorite cousin?

DEBBIE

Hi, Nobu! Oh, you brought the baby. Hi, Susan.

SUSAN

Hello, Debbie, nice to see you again.

(TOMI *enters carrying a bag of malasadas.)*

DEBBIE

Hi, Auntie Tomi!

TOMI

Mo' and mo' big, eh, you.

DEBBIE

Chee, Auntie, you only saw me last month.

(FUMIKO *comes out with a large, menacing knife and waves it in the air.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Nobu! Oh, good you came.

NOBU

Thanks for inviting us.

TOMI

Watch out da knife, eh, no cut off your fingers.

DEBBIE

Mama, look da baby.

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage.)*

C'mon, Fumi!

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Susan, thank you for coming. How's little Daniel?

SUSAN

I hope you don't mind that we brought him.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Of course not. Oh, he's so cute. Hello, Daniel.

NOBU

Daniel Akira Mason Kamiya.

DEBBIE

He get two middle names?

SUSAN

Mason is my father's name.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*To* TOMI.)

Fast, no. Yonsei already.

SUSAN

Yonsei?

NOBU

Fourth generation AJA˙

SUSAN

AJA?

NOBU

American of Japanese ancestry.

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage.)*

Fumi, wat you doing? Dis chicken giving me da stink eye!

TOMI

Shut up, you!

(*She starts to exit offstage.)*

Dat old man get big voice for nuttin'.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*Calling into the house.)*

Laura, boil some water. Nobu, come, go in da house, da front way. Relax in da parlor. Come, Susan, I take

you inside.

NOBU

Don't worry about us, Auntie. You busy right now. I wanna show Susan out here, anyway.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Oh, okay. Debbie, tell Daddy hurry up and come outside and show Susan and Nobu around.

NOBU

No, don't bother him. He must be busy.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

He jus' changing his clothes. Take him one whole day to decide wat to wear, jus' like one wahine.

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage.)*

Fumi, dis chicken going die of old age!

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Okay!

DEBBIE

Mama, wat you gonna do with that knife?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I going chop off da chicken head, of course.

DEBBIE

You?

(FUMIKO *exits. The chicken squawks loudly. There is the loud thud of the knife on the stump.* DEBBIE *and* SUSAN *wince.)*

DEBBIE

You think that hurt?

SUSAN

I hope not.

(FUMIKO *enters, wiping the knife with a cloth.* TOMI *walks beside her. They go to the picnic table, where* TOMI *places a bag of malasadas.)*

TOMI

I wen' bring some malasadas. Dey jus' make 'um.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You didn't have to.

TOMI

You busy in da kitchen?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Yeah, we get lotta work for you. You can roll da sushi.

TOMI

Okay, good. Susan, I take Daniel inside.

SUSAN

All right.

TOMI

Baby not hungry yet?

SUSAN

No, he's resting pretty good. Maybe later.

(*She hands the bundle to* TOMI. FUMIKO *carries the bag of malasadas.)*

TOMI

C'mon, Aki-chan, grandma take you in da house.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Debbie, stay here wit' Nobu and Susan till Daddy come.

DEBBIE

Okay.

(FUMIKO *and* TOMI *enter the house.)*

DEBBIE

By the way, did you see Elvis out front?

SUSAN

Elvis? Elvis Presley?

DEBBIE

No, Elvis Kamiya, our dog.

SUSAN

(*Smiling.)*

Oh...

NOBU

He barked at us coming up the walk.

DEBBIE

How 'bout Toku?

NOBU

No, he didn't bark at us.

DEBBIE

Nobu...

SUSAN

He was trying to catch Elvis, but he slipped in a mud puddle.

DEBBIE

Poor Toku.

(FUMIKO *carries out a deep pot of hot water.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Uncle still trying to decide wat to wear.

NOBU

Let me help you, Auntie.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No, you get nice clothes on.

DEBBIE

What's that for, Mama?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

We going clean off da chicken feathers.

(*She exits.)*

DEBBIE

I don't know what you gonna make with that chicken, but I ain't eating it! I'm not eating that chicken, are you?

SUSAN

Well, I don't know.

DEBBIE

Susan's not eating the chicken too!

SUSAN

No, I didn't say that. Ah, chicken's fine with me!

NOBU

Come on, Debbie, it's only a chicken.

DEBBIE

I know, but I saw that chicken when it was alive. Now... I'm gonna check out what they're doing.

(DEBBIE *exits.)*

SUSAN

It's beautiful here. So lush and green and clean.

NOBU

Manoa has lots of rain and rainbows.

DEBBIE

(*Offstage.)*

Uncle! Aaaeeeehhhh!

NOBU

It hasn't been so bad, huh?

SUSAN

No, just a little different — from Michigan, I mean. But I expected that.

NOBU

Things'll get better. You'll never regret coming back to Hawai`i with me.

SUSAN

Oh, I know that.

NOBU

Miss your family?

SUSAN

Well, I hope someday Dad understands about us.

NOBU

Sure he will. Look, if you want, take Daniel back for a visit. When your father sees him, he'll change his mind about us getting married.

SUSAN

I don't know.

NOBU

He can ignore me, but he can't deny his own grandson, even if he is half Japanese. Danny's so cute, your father won't be able to resist him.

SUSAN

His first grandchild, after all.

NOBU

Of course.

TOMI

(*Offstage.)*

Look out! No make a mess!

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage.)*

Yakamashii!

NOBU

My mother couldn't be happier with Danny.

SUSAN

And me? Is your mom happy with me?

NOBU

Sure.... She hasn't said anything, has she?

SUSAN

No.

NOBU

Well, maybe she had her heart set on me marrying some Japanese from Hawai`i; that's understandable.

SUSAN

It's okay that we're not going to live with your folks?

NOBU

Perfectly okay.

SUSAN

I don't want to cause problems, but...

NOBU

It's fine, believe me.

SUSAN

I'd just feel better if I didn't have someone looking over my shoulder all the time.

NOBU

I know. Mom's used to being boss around the house, that's all. She lives by the old ways. Well, she has to learn.

SUSAN

I don't want her to hate me.

NOBU

Don't be silly. She's not that kind of person, anyway. Hey listen, you like this place?

SUSAN

Yes.

NOBU

Okay, one day I'm gonna build a bigger and better home for you.

SUSAN

When I'm old and gray?

NOBU

Oh no. We're going places, baby. And fast. I can see our shiny new house, maybe up on Tantalus overlooking the city. Or past Diamond Head with the sea at our doorstep. A magnificent castle for my fairytale princess.

SUSAN

My chivalrous knight on a charging white steed with banners flying.

(*They kiss.* SPENCER *enters from left, wiping his hands with a rag. He looks around to see that no one else is around.)*

SPENCER

Ah, Nobu, I can ask you something?

(*They break off the kiss.)*

NOBU

Yeah, yeah, Spenca. What's up?

SPENCER

You know, when you told Uncle Aki you were going to the mainland for school, what did he say?

NOBU

Chee, that was a long time ago. Let me think. Ah, he said something like, "Make sure da haoles no take you cheap. If dey ack smart, give 'um one."

SPENCER

He wasn't mad at you?

NOBU

What for?

SPENCER

Well, you know, that you were leaving Hawai`i and all that.

NOBU

No. But you know my father — he couldn't care less about what I do.

SUSAN

That's not true. He cares a lot about you. He just doesn't express it verbally.

NOBU

Sure, sure. Anyway, why the concern, Spenca?

SPENCER

Oh, ah, I don't know. I mean, he didn't say you couldn't go?

NOBU

No. But I was awarded a scholarship, so...

SPENCER

If he tried to stop you, what would you have done?

NOBU

I don't know. Never thought about it.

SPENCER

What if he said you had to stay home and take over his nursery?

NOBU

The nursery? Oh, no, no. That's his life. My goal was to become an attorney. He knew that. Things change. We progress. We go on to better things. For me to grow, I had to go to the mainland, to stretch my imagination, to spread my wings of adventure. It's my life, after all, right?

SPENCER

Yeah, yeah, right. Thanks.

(SPENCER *goes to the porch, searching for a tool.* DEBBIE *races in.)*

DEBBIE

You wanna smell something really bad? Go over there and put your nose over the chicken and feathers in the hot water. Phew!

NOBU

Yeah, let's go.

SUSAN

No thank you.

NOBU

Reminds me of my childhood. I remember the family went to Kona for a visit. It's a real country place, and the people there killed a chicken for dinner. It was supposed to be a real treat.

SUSAN

Well, you go and relive your childhood. I'll stay here with Debbie.

NOBU

Okay, but you're missing one of the joys in life.

DEBBIE

Better hold your nose.

(*He smiles and pinches his nose as he exits.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*Offstage.)*

Spenca, no forget da tub and ice.

SPENCER

Okay.

(*He exits with a screwdriver.)*

DEBBIE

Do you want something to drink? Soda?

SUSAN

No thank you.

DEBBIE

Something stronger, maybe? Vodka Collins? Bloody Mary? My father has a bar inside. I can mix any drink you want.

SUSAN

It's too early for me. Maybe tonight.

DEBBIE

Okay.

SUSAN

Who taught you to mix drinks?

DEBBIE

Nobody. I taught myself. I try to learn everything I can. If times get hard, I can always be a bartender.

(LAURA *comes out in a colorful muumuu, hair neatly coiffed.)*

LAURA

Susan!

SUSAN

Hi, Laura.

LAURA

Oh, you look so nice. Where'd you buy that?

SUSAN

A shop in Waikiki. On Kala... Kala?...

LAURA

Kalakaua Avenue. Isn't it expensive there? It's for the tourists. I'll take you to the stores where the local people shop.

SUSAN

Oh, good, that'll be nice. You have a lovely place here.

LAURA

Oh, I live in Kaimuki; it's not as nice there. Debbie, you didn't finish the gobo.

DEBBIE

Well, I was busy talking —

LAURA

Don't make excuses. I gotta do it myself.

SUSAN

Can I help?

LAURA

Oh no, you're a guest here.

SUSAN

No, please, I want to.

LAURA

Well, okay.

SUSAN

Maybe I can work on the... gobo?

(TOKU *enters with his soiled pants rolled up.)*

LAURA

What happen?

TANIGUCHI

Nuttin'.

LAURA

Look at your pants. Now you gotta go home and change.

TANIGUCHI

Not going take me dat long.

LAURA

Put that pants in the laundry sink and wear the blue gabardine in the closet.

(NOBU and FUMIKO enter.)

NOBU

Hi, Laura.

LAURA

Nobu, aeh, you look shaka today.

NOBU

Auntie, what kind of chicken you making?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Heka.

NOBU

Good. You make the best chicken heka.

(FUMIKO *smiles and exits into the house.)*

SUSAN

How'd the chicken smell?

NOBU

Great! Smelled as bad as when I was a kid. Some things never change.

LAURA

Let's go in the house. By the way, is Nobu a kid like Toku?

SUSAN

Nobu? Oh, worse.

TANIGUCHI

I guess I betta go before she spank me, eh, Debbie?

(TOKU *exits.* TOSH *finally emerges in neat trousers and a drab aloha shirt.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Nobu!

NOBU

Aeh, Uncle, howzit?

TOSH KAMIYA

Susan, you look jus' like one local girl in your muumuu. Terrific.

SUSAN

Thank you, Tosh. You look terrific too.

TOSH KAMIYA

Dis shirt not too flashy? Oh, where you going?

SUSAN

Inside. I'm going to help.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, no, come, come, I have to show you outside.

(LAURA *exits with a friendly shrug.)*

Aeh, Aki, you like one beer?

UNCLE AKI

(*Offstage.)*

Only if you get Primo!

TOSH KAMIYA

Debbie, get Uncle one beer. You like one, Nobu?

NOBU

Not right now.

(DEBBIE *exits.* TOSH *scrutinizes* NOBU.)

TOSH KAMIYA

Nobu, how come you still tuck in your shirt like one haole?

NOBU

Yeah, I gotta buy some aloha shirts.

SUSAN

What about those at home?

NOBU

Oh no, that's from high school days. My mother just didn't throw them away.

(*To* TOSH.)

You know Mama, eh, she never throws anything away.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, if you poor wen you young, you like save everyting wen you get old.

(DEBBIE *brings out a beer in one hand; with the other she pinches her nose as she exits right.)*

I hear you moving outta da house? How come, get plenty room at home.

NOBU

Yeah, but now that we get Daniel, too noisy for the folks.

SUSAN

Daniel cries a lot. It's natural at his age, but still...

(DEBBIE *returns.)*

NOBU

Anyway, we'll visit the folks all the time. They gotta babysit their grandson sometimes too.

SUSAN

We'll always keep in touch. It's not as if we're moving to Alaska.

NOBU

Sure, it's not a far drive to Kalihi.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, yeah, you right.

TOMI

(*At the door.)*

Debbie, come help. No be lazy.

DEBBIE

Me help? Help wat? I ain't peeling nuttin', man.

TOMI

Yeah, you peel da potatoes. Hayo, Mama like you.

DEBBIE

(*Exiting.)*

Peel, peel, peel, aaaaaaggggghhhhhh!

NOBU

The law firm I'm joining is downtown, so we're renting a house in Nu`uanu.

SUSAN

It'll be a couple of weeks before we move in.

NOBU

Susan's going to teach at Punahou this year.

TOSH KAMIYA

Too good, eh. 'S one high-class school, you know.

SUSAN

I'll just be a substitute teacher, but I'm looking forward to it.

(SPENCER *enters with an aluminum tub and a bag of ice.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Spenca went to a private boys school — ‘Iolani. Debbie going to a girls school — Saint Andrew's Priory. Only Laura went to a public school — McKinley. Afta Spenca graduate from UH, he going work full time wit’ me in da business.

(SPENCER *looks up but decides against speaking.)*

NOBU

What's that for, Spenca, the beer?

SPENCER

Yeah, the guys from work can suck 'um up.

TOSH KAMIYA

Summertime Spenca helping me, but he get plenty to learn.

NOBU

At least you're there to teach him.

TOSH KAMIYA

He learning da bes' way — from da bottom up.

DEBBIE

(*At the door.)*

Spenca, Mama said get the charcoal grill.

SPENCER

Get 'um yourself.

TOSH KAMIYA

Aeh! Go!

SPENCER

Why I gotta do all the slave labor?

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat? Not going kill you. Help Mama today, you know she busy.

SPENCER

I sick and tired of doing everything around here — and at work.

TOSH KAMIYA

Work? Wat you doing at work? You get one easy job helping da working men.

SPENCER

Yeah, all the dirty work.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat dirty work?

SPENCER

Picking up all the trash at construction sites.

TOSH KAMIYA

'S good for you. Teach you to keep da area clean and safe so nobody get hurt.

SPENCER

I don't have to learn that.

TOSH KAMIYA

You like do wat I did wen I was one kid? I hadda climb up stepladdas and pick coffee berries till my legs shaking and my arms like fall off. From morning till night. You tink you like dat?

SPENCER

Better than what I doing now.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*At the door.)*

Spenca. Get da charcoal grill ready. Hayo!

(SPENCER *reluctantly exits.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Kids nowdays, I dunno.

NOBU

Growing pains.

(FUMIKO *goes back in.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Nobu, I hope you hungry. Going get plenty `ono kau kau today.

NOBU

Oh, I'm ready. The one thing I missed on the mainland was Hawaiian food.

SUSAN

What was `ono kau kau again?

NOBU

Delicious food.

SUSAN

I'm trying to learn all the new words I hear.

TOSH KAMIYA

You going catch on real fast. Get one haole girl in Waikiki working for one U-drive company. She can talk Pidgin betta dan me. And she only been here two years.

NOBU

I don't think Susan wants to learn Pidgin, Uncle. She's an English teacher.

TOSH KAMIYA

Oh, den I betta watch out how I talk to you. In dis house we speak combination English, Hawaiian, Japanese. Real chop suey.

SUSAN

Sometimes I don't understand what Tomi is saying.

NOBU

I told Mama to watch how she talks with Susan, but...

TOSH KAMIYA

Hard for your muddah, eh, she talk like dat for so long.

SUSAN

No, honey, I want to learn, so it's better if I hear it all the time. It's an interesting dialect.

TOSH KAMIYA

Come, let me show you da hothouse.

SUSAN

What kind of plants does Fumiko grow?

TOSH KAMIYA

Fumiko? 'S not her hothouse. 'S mine. I grow nuttin' but orchids. Cattleya, Vanda, you name 'um, I got 'um.

(*As they exit,* SPENCER *enters with a portable grill.* DEBBIE *joins him from the house.)*

DEBBIE

Why you got mad at me for? Not my fault.

SPENCER

I not mad at you. I jus' gotta go to da mainland. Gotta settle dis damn ting today.

DEBBIE

Wat about Daddy?

(AKI *enters with the deep pot.)*

UNCLE AKI

Debbie, you like see da chicken now? Nice and clean, no feathers.

DEBBIE

No t'anks. I not going look at anodda chicken as long as I live.

(AKI *exits into the house, laughing.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*From inside.)*

Debbie!

DEBBIE

I know! Peel da oranges!

(DEBBIE *races inside.* SPENCER *drops the grill and exits.* AKI *reemerges with several knives and a sharpening stone.)*

UNCLE AKI

Ho, da junk knifes you get.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*From inside.)*

No can help, nobody make 'um sharp for me.

UNCLE AKI

I fix 'um up, going be sharp like one samurai sword.

(TOMI *comes out and busies herself on the porch.)*

TOMI

No ack so smart, eh, bumbai you cut off your da kine.

UNCLE AKI

Good. Den you no bodda me in bed.

TOMI

Aeh, quiet, eh, you. Debbie can hear.

UNCLE AKI

So? If she dunno about da kine stuff, she betta find out before too late. 'S right, eh, Debbie?

TOMI

You drunk or wat?

(DEBBIE *comes out.)*

DEBBIE

You call me, Uncle?

UNCLE AKI

Oh. Ah, you heard me wat I said jus' now?

DEBBIE

About wat?

UNCLE AKI

About, ah, you know, da kine stuff.

DEBBIE

Wat kine stuff?

UNCLE AKI

You still one kid yet, no.

DEBBIE

Well, I still going school.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, yeah, wat dey teach you?

DEBBIE

Science, history, math, English. Stuff like dat.

UNCLE AKI

Dey no teach you da odda stuff?

DEBBIE

Wat odda stuff?

UNCLE AKI

You know... da kine.

DEBBIE

Wat kine?

TOMI

Aki!

UNCLE AKI

'S okay.

DEBBIE

Uncle, you going tell me or wat?

UNCLE AKI

No, bumbai you auntie konk me on da head. Go back help in da kitchen.

TOMI

Yeah, 's good training for you wen you get married.

DEBBIE

I neva getting married.

TOMI

Why?

DEBBIE

'Cause I no like get pregnant.

UNCLE AKI

Wat? You know about da kine?

DEBBIE

Yeah, why?

UNCLE AKI

I like you go teach Auntie; she dunno nuttin'.

DEBBIE

Oh, Uncle, you always kidding.

UNCLE AKI

Who kidding?

(DEBBIE *enters the house.)*

(*To* TOMI.)

See!

(*He decides to sit on the cement now.)*

TOMI

Aeh, watch out your pants, eh.

UNCLE AKI

Nemmine my pants. If I like puka pants, 's my business.

(SPENCER *enters with another tub and a case of beer.)*

Spenca, I tell you one ting. No eva get married.

TOMI

No listen to your uncle. He drink two beers and already he drunk.

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, I can drink ten beers and I still talk mo' sense dan you. Spenca, you eva see me drunk?

SPENCER

Chee, Uncle, ah, you know...

TOMI

No ask Spenca lie for you.

UNCLE AKI

Wat you mean, lie? Spenca, listen to dis.

(*He winks at* SPENCER, *making sure* TOMI *can't see.)*

Put your hand ova your heart. Okay now. You tell da trut', da whole trut' and nuttin' but da trut'.

SPENCER

Yes, sir.

UNCLE AKI

Did you eva, in your whole life, see me, your favorite uncle, who is a real sharp guy, get drunk?

SPENCER

Well, at Laura's wedding, you —

UNCLE AKI

Wait, wait. You need eyeglasses or someting?

SPENCER

No, my eyes good.

UNCLE AKI

Okay den, wait.

(*He surreptitiously pulls a dollar bill from his pants and flashes it to* SPENCER, *making sure* TOMI *doesn't see. He points to the bill, then to* SPENCER.)

How your eyes now?

SPENCER

Perfect.

UNCLE AKI

Now we cooking. Did you eva —

SPENCER

No, Uncle, I neva saw you drunk in my life.

UNCLE AKI

Case dismiss!

(TOMI *shakes her head and exits into the house.* AKI *resumes his work, spitting on the stone and scraping a knife on it.)*

SPENCER

Here, Uncle.

(*Holding out the dollar.)*

UNCLE AKI

Huh? No, no, 's yours.

SPENCER

I no need.

UNCLE AKI

Nemmine. I not happy unless I broke ass. Where your Daddy?

SPENCER

Showing Nobu and Susan da hothouse.

UNCLE AKI

Mo' betta your Daddy was da nurseryman instead of me.... You know I was one professional gambla wen I was young? Your Daddy eva tell you dat?

SPENCER

No, he no talk about da old days to me.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, I was one real rascal. And I was happy, too. But I wen' make one big mistake in my life. You know wat dat was?

SPENCER

You had pair jacks and you wen' try bluff one guy who had royal flush.

UNCLE AKI

Worse dan dat. I wen' marry your auntie. Not dat your auntie dat bad, but if I neva marry her, I can stay one bachelor. You see —

SPENCER

Yeah, but if you neva get married, den you no get Nobu and Nobu no get Daniel and —

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, who telling dis story, you or me?

(LAURA *comes out with a tray of coffee cups.)*

LAURA

Uncle, you like coffee?

UNCLE AKI

Who made 'um?

LAURA

Auntie Tomi.

UNCLE AKI

You like I drink my wife's coffee? You pupule or wat?

LAURA

Why, wassamadda?

UNCLE AKI

Taste like shellac. Spenca can drink mine.

LAURA

You like?

SPENCER

Not afta wat Uncle said.

UNCLE AKI

You smart.

(TOSH, SUSAN, *and* NOBU *return.)*

NOBU

For a while I was thinking about staying on the mainland, but there's lots of things to do in Hawai`i.

TOSH KAMIYA

Good you came back. Make your muddah happy.

LAURA

I have coffee for you folks, and don't ask who made it.

(*They sip their coffee.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Aaaaaggghh, Auntie Tomi made dis. Taste like shellac.

LAURA

You and Uncle just the same. No wonder you're brothers.

(*They put the cups back.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Aki, no shame, eh. Drink up, get plenty beer.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, no worry.

SPENCER

Here, Uncle.

(*He hands a bottle to* AKI.)

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, your muddah was real happy wen you wrote you was coming home. Too good da way you wen' study on da mainland.

NOBU

Going to Michigan was the best thing I could've done.

SPENCER

Nobu, I bet you learned things on the mainland you could never learn in Hawai`i, right?

NOBU

Oh, yeah. One thing I learned is you gotta get along with the haoles. You know, on the whole, they were really nice to me on the mainland. Especially this haole.

SUSAN

Don't think I don't know who you mean.

(*To* TOSH.)

I just felt sorry for him.

NOBU

I had to watch how I talked. Sometimes the Pidgin came out. Hard to talk. Everybody thought I was shy, but I was too embarrassed to say anything. Until I met Susan.

SUSAN

He's just fooling. Nobu was never shy. He was always campaigning, advocating causes, getting people involved. I loved the way he took charge of things. He wouldn't take no for an answer.

UNCLE AKI

He get dat from his muddah.

SPENCER

What if you never went to the mainland? What if you were stuck here all this time?

NOBU

Boy, I hate to think about that.

SUSAN

If you didn't get the scholarships, you'd be working in the nursery now.

NOBU

Maybe. Or be a hoodlum.

SUSAN

Hoodlum?

NOBU

Honey, I came from Farrington; that's a tough school.

TOSH KAMIYA

Once he got suspended for fighting.

NOBU

(*To* SUSAN.)

I took on two guys.

SUSAN

Yet sometimes he's so quiet I don't know whether he's listening to me or sleeping.

UNCLE AKI

He learn dat from me. I pull dat on my wife all da time. Jus' last night.

SUSAN

But you were really sleeping.

(AKI *shakes his head.)*

NOBU

Like father, like son.

SUSAN

Oh, you. Next time I want your attention, I'll dump a pitcher of water on you.

UNCLE AKI

No tell my wife your plan. I can jus' see her creeping up on me and...

(*He mimes dumping a pitcher and shivers.)*

SUSAN

Mum's the word.

TOSH KAMIYA

Let's go to da odda side of da house. I pick you some mangoes. Wen we firs' moved here, Aki and Nobu helped me plant da trees. Right, Nobu?

NOBU

Yeah, those trees really grew.

TOSH KAMIYA

Still giving fruit.

(*The three exit upstage left.* LAURA *sips coffee and grimaces.)*

LAURA

Auntie put someting in dis coffee?

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, go look in her purse. She get 'um wrapped up in tissue paper.

LAURA

Wat is it?

UNCLE AKI

'S her secret. If you find out, tell me. I pay you five dollars.

(LAURA *smiles and exits into the house.)*

Your auntie going little bit senile, you know dat?

SPENCER

Wat happen?

UNCLE AKI

She mix anyting wit' da food. I no can eat wat I like.

SPENCER

Sounds like she and Mama wen' talk it ova.

UNCLE AKI

She even put barley in wit' my white rice. No `ono. 'S why I like come here and eat. At leas' your muddah no do dat.

SPENCER

Auntie neva feed you like dat before, eh?

UNCLE AKI

No. Started about wen Nobu got married. Funny, yeah. Now she tell me every time, "I no like you die early, 's why I feeding you like dis. If you die now, who going take care of me, who I going stay wit'? I no like live by myself." You know, wen she talk like dat, I no can say nuttin'. Firs', I gotta get married for make my muddah happy. Now I gotta live long to keep my wife happy. I tell you, Spenca, life not so easy. Especially for one

rascal like me. Now your faddah was always one good boy, da baby of da family. But he always work hard. 'S why he get plenty money now and one good business, so you can take ova someday. Yeah, you really lucky.

SPENCER

'S wat I hear all da time. But you neva expect Nobu take ova da nursery, eh?

UNCLE AKI

Nah. His dreams was bigga dan dat.

SPENCER

'S wat I mean. Den why I gotta take ova my faddah's business?

UNCLE AKI

'S diff'rent. Your faddah get one good business. For wat t'row 'um away. Poho.

SPENCER

Wat you going do wit' your nursery wen you retire?

UNCLE AKI

Me? Maybe sell 'um. If I get four, five sons, maybe one of dem like da nursery. But I get only one boy, so no can help. Yeah, was too hard on your auntie, so we stop wit' one kid. You know, maybe I can find one boy like learn da business. 'S wat wen' happen to me. Dis old Japanee man said he no mo' son to continue his nursery, so he going teach me everyting if I work wit' him, and wen he die, he going give me da whole works. He was old already, and he neva get relatives in Hawai`i or Japan. He was one sad old man. He used to like drink, so I used to get drunk wit' him. And I dunno how many times he used to tell me about his wife in Japan. Wen he was one young man, he wen' leave his pregnant wife and came to Hawai`i to earn some money. He was going back to Japan, but his wife wen' die in childbirt'. Da baby too. So he neva wen' back. He blame himself dat his wife wen' die. Afta dat I guess he put all his energy into his nursery. And I tink he was breaking his back for his wife and kid till da day he died. Yeah, people funny. If dey work hard to build up someting, dey no like da damn ting broke up afta dey ma-ke. Rich people feel like dat, but poor people feel da same way. 'S why dis old man, Nakamura-san, afta he teach me all he know, he kick off, keel ova right in da hibiscus bush, his fav'rite place in da whole nursery. Anshin shita, you know dat word? Anshin.

SPENCER

Kinda. I tink Babasan used to use dat word.

UNCLE AKI

Babasan? Yeah, I guess so. At leas' you wen' learn some Japanese from your grandmuddah, eh. Anshin, free from care, be at peace. 'S wat dis old man had. He was ready to join his wife and kid. Only one favor he wen' ask me before he ma-ke. Scatta his ashes around da hibiscus bushes. 'S why you see all hibiscus I get.

SPENCER

No tell me you wen' actually scatta his ashes?

UNCLE AKI

Sure. 'S da old man's spirit ova dere making 'um grow like-a hell. Da old man wen' die long time ago, but he still busting his ass in da nursery. Maybe 's wat I going do, too. I going tell my wife put my ashes around my white plumeria tree. Afta I die, you can come visit me dere. And anytime you need one flowa lei, you can come pick my plumerias.

SPENCER

No t'anks, Uncle. I no like wear no spooky lei.

(LAURA, FUMIKO, *and* TOMI *come out, sipping coffee.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Hot, hot, hot.

TOMI

How long you going take sharp da knifes?

UNCLE AKI

Pau already. Fumi, watch out wen you use 'um, eh, sharp like-a hell.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Hai, domo arigato.

UNCLE AKI

I take 'um in da house, wash 'um for you.

(AKI *exits. The women sit at the picnic table at a distance from* SPENCER, *who is now cleaning the grill.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Erai, erai.

LAURA

Tired, Mama?

(*She massages* FUMIKO' *s shoulders lightly.)*

TOMI

Lucky no, you get one good daughta.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Why, you get one good boy like Nobu.

TOMI

Nah, boys not da same. Gotta be daughta. Too bad I neva get girls like you.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well, now you get one nice daughta-in-law.

TOMI

No joke, eh.

LAURA

Auntie, Susan really nice. I like her. Nobu lucky he wen' find her.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Jus' be grateful Susan and Nobu click wit' each odda.

LAURA

Yeah, and you get one hapa-haole grandson, too good, eh you.

TOMI

But now dey no like live at da house. Get plenty room, no need move out.

LAURA

Auntie, I bet you wen' make bulldog face at Susan, so now she scared of you.

TOMI

No, I always smile at her like dis.

(*She flashes a silly, idiotic, cockeyed smile. They all laugh.* FUMIKO *playfully slaps* TOMI' *s arm.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No live wit' da parents, 's haole style. Shoganai.

LAURA

Yeah, no can help. 'S progress.

TOMI

I get one daughta-in-law, but I lose one son.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Not dat bad. Rememba wen Nobu wanted to marry da Sunada girl?

TOMI

Sunada? Oh, dat girl. All she know was how to spend money. Da faddah sure wen' spoil her. She had her own car, wat was? Buick, I tink. I used to get mad wen she drive up and toot da horn for Nobu. I argue wit' Nobu about dat girl, and Aki always pretending he sleeping. Make me so mad. I used to kick Aki in da leg so he say

someting, and all he can say in front of Nobu was, "Why you kick me for?"

LAURA

I rememba her. She was one year olda dan Nobu.

TOMI

She was one freshman at UH˙ Nobu was fooling around too much wit' her, so I ask your daddy to talk to him.

LAURA

Yeah? Wat he told Nobu?

TOMI

I dunno, but Nobu wen' listen, 'cause afta dat he neva see da girl too much. And den he wen' to college on da mainland.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

'S why Daddy feel close to Nobu.

LAURA

Wat happen to da girl?

TOMI

Oh, she wen' marry one dentist. I tink he wen' make false teeth for her and fall in love wit' her hagamuge face.

(*She mugs as if she has no teeth with her mouth wide open.* LAURA *and* FUMIKO *laugh at her antics.)*

LAURA

You lie, Auntie, she neva get false teeth. You terrible.

DEBBIE

(*At the door.)*

Where Susan? I tink Daniel hungry.

LAURA

She wit' Daddy by da mango trees.

DEBBIE

Okay.

(*She withdraws.)*

TOMI

Susan feed da kid from one baby bottle. I told her breast milk betta, but she said, no, baby formula mo' healthful. Wat you going do?

LAURA

Well, Auntie, 's her baby.

TOMI

Yeah, you betta hurry up and make one kid, too, so your muddah can be one grandmuddah.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I wonda wat kine grandchild I going get?

LAURA

Wat you folks talking. Get plenty time yet. No need rush.

TOMI

Aeh, no wait too long, eh, going be harda on you, you know.

LAURA

No worry.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I rememba how happy my muddah was wen you was born.

TOMI

You lucky Laura was one easy baby.

(*To* LAURA.)

I almost wen' die wen I give birt' to Nobu. I had to get Caesarean. He like stay inside me and no come out. Now, he no can wait to get out of da house.

(DEBBIE *runs out to the porch. Right behind is* AKI.)

DEBBIE

Uncle eating da tempura in da kitchen.

TOMI

Go kick his `okole.

UNCLE AKI

I only tasting to see if good.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well?

UNCLE AKI

I gotta eat five or six befo' I can give you my opinion.

TOMI

'S for da party, not for one hoito like you.

UNCLE AKI

Hoito? Aeh, I work hard sharp da knifes, make me hungry. I like try some sushi too.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Debbie, cut Uncle some sushi.

UNCLE AKI

Nemmine, I can cut my own.

(*He withdraws.)*

SPENCER

Aeh, Debbie, bring me some sushi too.

DEBBIE

Come cut 'um yourself.

TOMI

Wat about da baby?

DEBBIE

I warming up da formula for Susan.

(DEBBIE *withdraws.* FUMIKO *checks on* SPENCER. TOSH, LAURA, *and* NOBU *return with a box of fruit;* NOBU *places it on the ground.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You neva finish cleaning da barbecue yet? Guzuguzu no you.

SPENCER

Da grill was rusty. Gotta clean 'um wit' da steel wool. Take time.

NOBU

Chee, Uncle, I don't know how we're going to eat all this fruit.

TOSH KAMIYA

We no can eat all by ourselves. Eat up, eat up.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Get enough charcoal?

SPENCER

Yeah, but I gotta find da lighta fluid.

TOSH KAMIYA

Da Hayden mango da bes', yeah. Especially if you bite 'um wit'your mouth.

NOBU

Yeah, really sweet and juicy.

SUSAN

And messy. I'm going to wash my hands and check on Daniel.

(*She exits into the house.* TOSH *and* NOBU *join* TOMI *and* LAURA.)

SPENCER

Mama, wait. I gotta tell Daddy today.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

No be silly. Bad time now.

NOBU

Uncle, what would you say if someday I run for politics?

TOSH KAMIYA

I say run fas' so you no lose.

LAURA

What office?

NOBU

Congress. Not right now, of course. I want to put in some time as a lawyer. But when the time is right, maybe try first for the state senate.

TOSH KAMIYA

You really serious, eh?

NOBU

Yes. I have to plan my future. The stakes are high.

TOSH KAMIYA

I give you credit. You cannot be scared. Fumi, try come.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

I talking to Spenca.

TOSH KAMIYA

I like you listen to Nobu. Come. You too, Spenca.

(*As they are joining the group,* TOKU *enters.)*

LAURA

How come you wearing da khaki pants? You no shame? Nobody wears khaki pants to a party.

TANIGUCHI

Dis comfortable.

TOSH KAMIYA

Nemmine, leave him alone. Khaki pants okay. If good enough for da Army, good enough for here.

LAURA

Oh, Daddy, no say dat. You only encourage him to act nonki.

(DEBBIE *and* SUSAN *come out to the porch.)*

DEBBIE

Saint Andrew's is a good school, but I have to wear a uniform.

TOMI

Debbie, wat Uncle doing?

DEBBIE

He's in the parlor watching Daniel and television.

SUSAN

The wrestling matches are on.

TOMI

Who wrestling?

DEBBIE

Lucky Simunovich.

TOMI

Ooohhh.

(*She quickly takes her cup and starts to go.* TOSH *stops her.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Okay now, everybody listen to Nobu.

NOBU

Well, I was telling Uncle that I'm going into politics someday, so I'm active right now at the grass-roots level. It's important to know what people are thinking, and I was at this Democratic meeting and we —

TOSH KAMIYA

Democrat? Aeh, wait. I tought you was one Republican like me?

NOBU

Uncle, the Republican Party is for the Big Five and the rich people in Kahala. The Democratic Party is for working folks like us.

TOSH KAMIYA

I dunno. I vote Republican all da time. Betta for businessmen. No forget I get one business.

NOBU

Uncle, the post-statehood economy is going to skyrocket. If you think the tourist industry is good now, just wait. We're going to have tourists coming out of our ears. More mainland money coming in, more construction, more jobs, the economic boom is going to get bigger and better.

LAURA

Toku, we gotta start our own business, then you don't have to repair washing machines for McCully Appliance.

TANIGUCHI

I like working for somebody else. You no get ulcers dat way.

LAURA

And you can't make money working for somebody, either.

TANIGUCHI

Money not everyting.

LAURA

That's not what you say when we have to pay the apartment rent. We can't live only on the fish and crabs you catch.

TOSH KAMIYA

Aeh, okay, okay, let Nobu continue. Important wat he saying.

NOBU

(*Clears throat.)*

Politics, that's where we have to make our mark.

SUSAN

That's the only reason why Nobu wanted to return to Hawai`i, to get into politics.

NOBU

Well, not the only reason.

SUSAN

That's what you told me.

TOSH KAMIYA

Tomi, you lucky you get one smart son like Nobu.

TOMI

I dunno. Only smart talk, maybe.

SUSAN

I think Nobu would make a great U˙S˙ senator. You should see how hard he's working, meeting people, making contacts.

NOBU

We can't stand around waiting for other people to tell us what to do. We've got to do it ourselves. Starting from now, 1959, the year of statehood, we have to strive hard to show the other forty-nine states what it means to live in Hawai`i. I want our people to be proud, to stand up straight and look the rest of the world in the eye and say, "We're the best! Hawai`i no ka oi!" We can do it. We will make things happen, we will grow and prosper and lead the way for the rest of the nation. We're going to make Hawai`i the best state in the Union.

(*The gathering applauds.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Spenca, you hear dat? Study hard like Nobu.

SPENCER

I know. I like study the way Nobu did.

TOSH KAMIYA

Good dat way. Wen you graduate from UH, you can —

SPENCER

I mean, I wanna go to the mainland and study like Nobu.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Not now.

TOSH KAMIYA

Mainland? Wat wrong wit' UH?

SPENCER

They don't teach what I wanna learn.

TOSH KAMIYA

You know wat he talking about?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

He only told me today.

SPENCER

USC get aerospace engineering.

TOSH KAMIYA

Aerospace engineering? Wat dat?

SPENCER

You study things like orbital mechanics, aircraft structural analysis, flight stability, and —

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat dat get to do wit' business?

SPENCER

Nuttin'.

TOSH KAMIYA

'S wat I tought.

NOBU

You sure that's what you want, Spenca?

SPENCER

You understand, right, Nobu?

(*To* TOSH.)

'S why Nobu went to Michigan. In order to go to law school, he had to study on the mainland. Well, I gotta go to the mainland if I wanna be an aerospace engineer. I applied to USC and they accepted me. I can start in September.

LAURA

USC? In Los Angeles? You cannot go, too expensive. Don't ask Daddy to pay for all that.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, no, wait. I not tinking about da money, but...

SPENCER

I pay you back someday. Wen I start working, I pay you back every penny.

TOSH KAMIYA

I neva raise you so you can pay me back.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Can you get one job in Hawai`i as one aerospace engineer?

SPENCER

No, I gotta live on the mainland to work.

TOMI

Wat about Hawai`i? You no like come back here?

SPENCER

Cannot help. If no jobs here, then I gotta live on the mainland.

TOMI

Mo' betta stay in Hawai`i and run your Daddy's business.

SPENCER

Why? Nobu not going take over Uncle's nursery.

SUSAN

If Spencer wants a career of his own, don't you think he should pursue it, like you?

NOBU

Well, our cases are different. Uncle Tosh has a good contractor business. Who's going to take over when he retires?

SUSAN

Well, I...

LAURA

Daddy, if Spenca wants to go, let him. Toku can continue the business.

TOSH KAMIYA

Toku?

TANIGUCHI

Me?

TOSH KAMIYA

Toku dunno nuttin' about da business.

LAURA

He can learn.

TANIGUCHI

Nah, too hard.

LAURA

You can.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, Toku too nice guy to run da company. You gotta be tough orda da working men around.

LAURA

Then I can be the boss.

TOSH KAMIYA

You? No be silly.

LAURA

Why? I can tell the guys what to do.

TOSH KAMIYA

No. Wahine boss no good, make da boys feel funny. Mo' betta you start raising kids — how long Mama waiting for grandchildren.

LAURA

I don't like kids. I hate kids. What you think me anyway? I get sick and tired of hearing you folks talk about...

(LAURA *turns abruptly and exits into the house.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

(*To* FUMIKO.)

Why she get mad for? And she like kids, I know dat. No make sense.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Well, I tink you hurt her feelings about wahine boss.

TOSH KAMIYA

I only told da truth.

TANIGUCHI

Laura neva mean wat she said.

TOSH KAMIYA

She was acting funny at home?

(AKI *comes out to the porch.)*

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, wat going on? How come Laura crying?

TANIGUCHI

Well, she neva like tell you folks, but about two months ago, da doctor said she cannot have babies.

TOMI

Kawaiso.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Why she neva tell me?

TANIGUCHI

I tink she was shame.

SUSAN

(*To* NOBU.)

I think I'll go in and stay with Laura.

(*She exits.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Mama, go talk wit' Laura, try make her feel betta.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat I going say?

TOSH KAMIYA

I dunno, all da kine stuff you wahines talk. Wat your muddah said to you.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

We neva talk about da kine stuff.

UNCLE AKI

Oi, Basan, you go, too.

TOMI

No call me your old woman.

UNCLE AKI

Nemmine. Hurry up, all da wahines go in da house, leave da men outside by demself.

TOMI

I going, but only because I no like stay out here wit' one kukae head like you. Sometimes you get me so mad, you ack jus' like your faddah, so bossy.

(FUMIKO *and* TOMI *exit.* DEBBIE *stays outside, but inconspicuously.* SPENCER *looks for an opening.)*

SPENCER

Wat about USC? I can go? Get lotta `Iolani grads on da mainland studying, and —

TOSH KAMIYA

No.

SPENCER

Why? You always tell me to be smart. How I going learn if I gotta stay in Hawai`i. I no like be stuck here da rest of my life.

TOSH KAMIYA

Mainland no good for you.

SPENCER

Wat you mean?

TOSH KAMIYA

Too big, you going be lost up dere. You tink so easy, but you only going suffa.

SPENCER

I know dat. But 's good for me. I like struggle by myself. I going make mistakes, but I not scared. Jus' give me da chance, 's all I ask. Da chance to go out and make it on my own. I know I can do it.

TOSH KAMIYA

No. Betta you stay in Hawai`i. I no like hear anymo'. Nuff already.

(SPENCER *dejectedly exits upstage left.)*

NOBU

Aeh, Spenca, wait.

(NOBU *exits. Offstage left, the dog barks.)*

TANIGUCHI

Dis time I going catch dat Elvis.

(*He exits.* DEBBIE *comes down to* TOSH.)

DEBBIE

Daddy, I know you no like me take ova your company, so I jus' made up my mind wat I going be.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wat?

DEBBIE

Da first woman governor of Hawai`i.

UNCLE AKI

Ooohhh, 's big talk from one little girl.

DEBBIE

'S one promise.

(*She spits in her left palm and slaps it with her right.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

One Kamiya promise, eh. Okay, I believe you.

DEBBIE

And I not getting married, either.

TOSH KAMIYA

Huh?

DEBBIE

So I can keep da family name. Debaney Masako Kamiya, governor of Hawai`i, da fiftieth state in da United States of America.

UNCLE AKI

Ooohh, you so strong, you make me scared.

DEBBIE

'S da Kamiya blood, Uncle. Strong like-a hell.

UNCLE AKI

'S right. Good for you. Go for broke, eh.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*From inside.)*

Debbie!

DEBBIE

I know! Peel da daikon!

(*She runs into the house.)*

UNCLE AKI

Da kids nowdays not scared of nuttin'. Run for Congress, run for governa. I neva tink nuttin' like dat wen I was young. All I know den was running for da shithouse.

TOSH KAMIYA

I neva figga Spenca like go to da mainland.

(*Pause.)*

If only Laura was one boy. She no can take ova da company.

UNCLE AKI

Why?

TOSH KAMIYA

Well, if I stay around, okay. But aftawards, going be too tough for her. And Toku, he always going be in one corna fooling around wit' da easy stuff, and wen someting big come up, he going get his pole and go fishing by Koko Head. So wat I going do about Laura? And if I let Spenca go to da mainland, I dunno wat going happen. Da way he talk, he no like come back to Hawai`i.

UNCLE AKI

I rememba Mama used to tell how, in da old days Japan, dey had dis funny kine style — da yoshi. If one family had a daughta and no sons, dey wen' arrange for one guy to marry da daughta...

TOSH KAMIYA

And make da guy change his name to da family's, and den let him run da family business.

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, maybe Laura can divorce Toku, and you can yoshi some odda guy.

TOSH KAMIYA

You serious?

UNCLE AKI

Nah, nah, nah. I jus' kidding. If we try da yoshi in Hawai`i, people going tink we crazy.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, Japan style no good for us in Hawai`i.

UNCLE AKI

We too American in our own funny kine way.

(*Pause.)*

You know, wen I wen' move to Honolulu, I felt bad about leaving you and da folks in Kona, but you can only pick so many coffee berries.

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, 's wat all us Kona kids used to tink.

UNCLE AKI

Wen I told da old man I was leaving for Honolulu, how much dat wen' hurt him?

TOSH KAMIYA

He neva say nuttin' to me. I dunno wat he told Mama. You know da old man, you look at his face, you neva know wat he was tinking.

UNCLE AKI

'Cause he wasn't tinking about anyting. He had lotta space in his head. Sometimes I could hear da wind blowing inside.

TOSH KAMIYA

I know he neva like give up da farm. He really liked Kona. He used to say reminded him of Kumamoto.

UNCLE AKI

But he only had lease land.

TOSH KAMIYA

Dat neva matta to him. Land is land so long as you can hold 'um in your hands, feel da soil. Da land was sorta sacred to him.

UNCLE AKI

I guess I coulda bought da coffee land for him if I wen' stay in Kona.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wen da coffee berries got red and ripe, damn trees was really nice, yeah.

UNCLE AKI

No tell me dat. I used to hate see da berries turn color, 'cause den we hadda climb da stepladdas and pick each ripe berry one by one. Damn, was hard work. You forget dat or wat?

TOSH KAMIYA

Pick da berries, wash 'um, dry 'um in da sun. Wat a life we had, eh, living in da country, good fresh air, wake up, eat rice and miso soup for breakfast, work up one sweat in da orchard.

UNCLE AKI

Wat you trying to do, make me homesick for Kona?

TOSH KAMIYA

You know wat I like do? Go back to da old coffee land and ask da people living dere if we can pick some coffee for old times.

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, I olda dan you, but I tink you came senile befo' me. Da firs' ting you do wen you try climb da stepladda again is fall off and broke your head. You clumsy, you know dat. Even wen you was one kid, like da time you wen' fall and broke your arm. Because you wen' get hurt, Mama slap me on da head. Wat Fumiko going do to me if I tell her you wen' die wit' coffee berries in your hand?

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, da old man was really scared dat time, too. He pack me in his arms and started running to Holualoa to see Docta Hayashi. Lucky ting Watanabe's donkey was along da road. Da old man jump on da jackass and we wen' bounce all da way to da docta. Watta sight.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, da old man was good for some laughs.

TOSH KAMIYA

But later wen I told him I wanted to go to Honolulu like you. Well, dat was it. Wat he going do?

UNCLE AKI

No can do nuttin'. Da old man wasn't strong. He hadda come to Honolulu too, so we could take care of him. I give you credit, you wen' stay long time wit' him and Mama in Kona. Long time. You was one good son. Betta dan me.

TOSH KAMIYA

No, not me. Wen I found my own place, I asked da old man if he like move in wit' me; he said no, he going stay wit' you.

UNCLE AKI

Not because he wanted to. Only because I was da oldest son and he tought dat was da right ting to do. Japan style.

TOSH KAMIYA

Wen da folks came from Japan?

UNCLE AKI

Hmmm, da old man came firs', around 1896, I guess.

TOSH KAMIYA

Ova sixty years ago, yeah. I can still see dem busting deir ass for us, hoe hana, hoe hana every day.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, da olda I get, da mo' I tink about da old man.

TOSH KAMIYA

'S funny, 'cause da olda you get, da mo' you look like da old man.

UNCLE AKI

Aeh, watch wat you say, eh. Da old man was pretty ugly.

TOSH KAMIYA

'S wat I mean.

(*They laugh good-naturedly. There is a pause.)*

You know wat? I neva told da old man t'anks before he died. I wish I wen' say t'ank you. You know? Jus' t'ank you.

UNCLE AKI

If you wen' tell him dat, he knock your head off.

TOSH KAMIYA

And Mama. She work so hard wen she was young dat wen she got old, she was kinda hunched ova.

UNCLE AKI

But Mama was strong. Even wen tings used to get bad in Kona, she neva cry, she neva complain. Yeah, all da Kamiya wahines tough inside. Jus' like Fumiko.

TOSH KAMIYA

Well, Tomi too.

UNCLE AKI

Tomi? I tell you, she get one mean mout'. But inside she soft. Wen Nobu told us he going find his own place wit' Susan, Tomi ack like she no care. But dat night she wen' cry in da bedroom. But she neva let Nobu know how she feel. Me, I no care. He get his own life. But I going tell him one ting. If I die befo' Tomi, he betta take care of his muddah in his own house. As for me, all he gotta do is bring plumerias to da cemetery and clean da birdshit from my tombstone.

(SPENCER *and* NOBU *return.* SPENCER *resumes scraping the grill.* NOBU *enters the house. For a long time there is only the scraping sound on the grill.* TOSH *and* AKI *exchange glances.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Spenca. I gotta talk to Mama yet. She worry about you. Not going be easy for her if you go to da mainland. Mama depend on you. I know she always ask you to do tings, but 's because she like you learn to take care of yourself. Not jus' study and play.

(*Pause.)*

But if you like go to da mainland, I no stop you.

SPENCER

You mean I can go? For real?

TOSH KAMIYA

Jus' study hard and no fool around, or I come up dere and kick your ass back to Hawai`i.

(SPENCER *runs and leaps in the air, yelling with joy.)*

SPENCER

No sweat, I going get straight A's. You and Mama no need worry. I going make good. Wait, I gotta tell Mama. Mama! Mama!

(*He dashes into the house.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Aeh, Aki, we still get time today go to da cemetery and bring flowas for da old lady and old man.

UNCLE AKI

'S a good idea.

TOSH KAMIYA

Mama! Mama!

(*To* AKI.)

I going bring orchids for da old lady.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, yeah, was her favorite flowa.

(FUMIKO *comes out.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Mama, we going to da cemetery.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wen?

TOSH KAMIYA

Now.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat for?

TOSH KAMIYA

We celebrating statehood, right? Well, we going celebrate wit' our muddah and faddah too. 'S only right. Get da kids, we all go.

UNCLE AKI

Yeah, tell Nobu, Susan, and Tomi. And no forget Daniel.

TOSH KAMIYA

Tell Debbie come out help me.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

(*Inside.)*

Debbie!

UNCLE AKI

Befo' we go, I betta take a leak.

(AKI *enters the house;* DEBBIE *comes out.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Debbie, go cut some orchids so we can take 'um to da cemetery for Babasan and Jiichan.

DEBBIE

Okay.

(DEBBIE *runs off right.* LAURA *emerges and heads right, too.)*

TOSH KAMIYA

Laura.

LAURA

Toku caught Elvis.

TOSH KAMIYA

Laura, wait.

LAURA

I gotta get da leash.

(*She exits.* FUMIKO *comes out.)*

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Why you get dis kine last-minute idea for?

TOSH KAMIYA

I dunno, but I get one mo' idea. Call your sista in Hilo and talk to your muddah. Wish her happy statehood. Tell her t'anks for all da hard work.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Wat hard work?

TOSH KAMIYA

For raising one nice daughta like you for me.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

You tell her yourself. Bumbai she tink I crazy.

(DEBBIE *returns with a beautiful array of orchids.)*

DEBBIE

Dis enough?

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, nice. Go tell Uncle help you cut some bird of paradise in front of da house. We go take some of dat too.

(DEBBIE *races into the house.* LAURA *enters with the leash.)*

Laura, da office really busy. I need your help.

LAURA

I busy too.

TOSH KAMIYA

I no mean jus' office help. I need someone to learn da business in case I get sick or someting.

LAURA

No need feel sorry for me.

TOSH KAMIYA

I no feel sorry for you. I feel sorry for myself, because I neva tink of you befo'. I know Spenca neva like da business, but I was going make him take ova someting he hate — only because I was tinking Japan style. But dis not Japan. Tings gotta change. Since you da oldest daughta and not da oldest son, I wen' take you for granted. But I need you.

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Listen to Daddy, Laura. He no talk like dis every time, you know dat. Must be he going through change of life. Say okay.

LAURA

I gotta tie up Elvis.

TOSH KAMIYA

Nemmine, we taking Elvis wit' us to da cemetery. Da whole family going. Laura, Monday morning come

work seven o'clock. We gotta be at da office firs' befo' da workers. 'S my numba one rule. You can learn da oddas later.

(LAURA *exits left.)*

You tink she going come?

FUMIKO KAMIYA

Of course. You can depend on her. How come you wen' change your mind? I neva even have to talk to you.

TOSH KAMIYA

I can tink for myself too, you know.

(DEBBIE *comes out.)*

DEBBIE

Okay, everybody ready.

TOSH KAMIYA

Good, we go.

DEBBIE

Everyting okay?

TOSH KAMIYA

Yeah, why?

DEBBIE

Even if Spenca go to da mainland?

TOSH KAMIYA

No trouble. Why, you like go mainland, too?

DEBBIE

No, I like living in Hawai`i. Hawai`i da best.

(FUMIKO *smiles and leads* DEBBIE *into the house.* FUMIKO *stops and looks back at* TOSH *from the service porch.* TOSH *is looking out over the audience where* SPENCER' *s house was going to be built. There is a moment's pause, then* FUMIKO *exits.* TOSH *is alone with his thoughts, and it is very quiet. Then he turns and exits briskly into the house.)* (*Slow fade to black.)*

The End